

Inventor: Ms. Carolyn Betts-Gowins
Portable AC Power Supply With Multiple Uses
Serial No. 10/718,437, Filing Date November 20, 2003
Response to Office Action of Mar. 17, 2008
Examiner: Patel, Rajnikant B.; Group Art Unit No. 2838

for communicating with the device and a car adapter receptacle at the other end of the device wherein a car adapter plug can communicate with the device to provide power to a cell phone anywhere.

5. (Original) The electrical distribution device according to Claim 1 wherein 2 or more such devices are provided, each having at least one physical interconnecting means communicating with its housing and at least two electrical connector means, wherein when the 2 or more electrical distribution devices are joined with their respective physical connecting means joined together and their electrical connector means are also joined together additional power and/or battery life may be provided from all of the electrical distribution devices which have been joined together.

RESPONSE

1-2 and 4.) Applicant continues to respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections regarding Claim 1 are unfounded on the following grounds:

Claim 1 is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prelec (U.S. Pat. No. 5,793,185) in combination with Crass (U.S. Pat. No. 6,252,378). A 35 U.S.C. § 103 obviousness rejection places the burden on the Examiner to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. See *In re Fritch*, 23 U.S.P.Q.2d 1780, 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992). The United States Patent and Trademark Office has defined *prima facie* unpatentability as follows:

when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability. *Id.* citing 37 CFR § 1.56(b)(2).

Further, the Examiner must provide,

(A) the relevant teachings of the prior art relied upon, preferably with

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reference to the relevant column or page number(s) and line number(s) where appropriate, (B) the difference or differences in the claim over the applied reference(s), (C) the proposed modification of the applied reference(s) necessary to arrive at the claimed subject matter, and (D) an explanation why one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to make the proposed modification. MPEP § 706.02(j).

Specifically, for the Examiner to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be a reason, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art, for combining the teachings of the references to produce the claimed invention. MPEP § 2143.01. The prior art as a whole must, therefore, contain some implicit or explicit reason, suggestion or motivation for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine or modify the references.

Applicant respectfully argues that Examiner has not met his burden as set forth in the MPEP, *supra*, because the prior art references do not teach or suggest every claim limitation. Neither Prelec et al. nor Crass et al., when applied to Claim 1 above, disclose, claim, or suggest "a safety interrupt device connected to the 110 V outlet which can cut off the 110 V outlet whenever a short circuit is detected." (Claim 1).

Here, the Examiner admits that Prelec does not disclose the utilization of the technique for a clock circuit and the LED display and a timer. Although it does appear that the Crass, (U.S. Pat. No. 6,252,378, col. 3, lns. 46-48) device teaches the utilization of a similar technique for a clock circuit and the LED display and a timer, there is nothing in Crass that teaches, suggests or even hints at the fact that it be combined with the Prelec device. Moreover the Crass device utilizes an IC timer which is triggered to output a count pulse which is inverted and then counted and displayed by an IC counter/display circuit. (Col 2, lns. 53-54). The present invention uses a simple timer circuit, and not one which is used to generate an *inverted* count pulse.

Moreover, the Examiner has stated that "Prelec et al. disclose (sic) the claimed invention a

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multiple use electrical distribution device (figure 5), at least one rechargeable storage unit (figure 4, item 9), at least one standard 110 V outlet receive an electrical plug (figure 4, item 3), a jumper cable. Yet, the Prelec only discloses a "dc input cord" (figure 4, item 3) and it does not disclose a standard 110 outlet. Nor does Prelec disclose the use of a standard 110 outlet anywhere.

Since claims 2 and 4 depend on Claim 1, they should also be patentable, in light of the fact that the references cited by the Examiner, and in particular Prelec, does not disclose a standard 110 V receptacle.


Claims 3 and 5 were also rejected as being unpatentable over Prelec in combination with Crass and Johnson. However, for the same reasons that Prelec does not have a simple timer circuit which is claimed in the present Claim 1, nor does it have a 110 standard outlet receptacle, these claims likewise should be patentable. Respectfully, the Examiner has misread this reference inasmuch as the Prelec reference discloses only a standard 110 V AC input plug (Figure 1, item 4) and (Figure 4, item 3), and further, Crass only discloses an *inverted* timer circuit where an IC timer is utilized to trigger an output count pulse which is inverted and then counted and displayed. The Crass "timer" circuit is not utilized to count time and then turn a circuit off.

Since Claims 3 and 5 depend upon Claim 1 and Claim 1 is patentable, both these claims should be allowed by the Examiner.

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WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims and specification of the instant application are currently in condition for ready allowance, and earnestly solicits the issuance of a Notice of Allowability from the Examiner in an expeditious manner.

Respectfully Submitted,


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